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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,726	03/09/2004	Ramesh Keshavaraj	5714	1775

7590

03/29/2006

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Spartanburg, SC 29304

EXAMINER

ILAN, RUTH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,726

Applicant(s)

KESHAVARAJ, RAMESH

Examiner

Ruth Ilan

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 March 2004 and 27 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/9/06, 6/14/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1, 7, 12-15, and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Soriano et al. (GB 2 390 574 A), as cited by the Applicant. Soriano et al. teaches an airbag cushion with a front and rear panel (4 and 3) each of the panels includes perpendicularly arranged sets of yarns and the yarns at the front panel are at a bias to the yarns at the rear panel (see page 2, and Figure 5.) Regarding claims 3 and 7, the panels have a four sided polygonal configuration. Regarding claims 12-15, the panels can be square, triangular, or rectangular (since squares are rectangles.) Regarding claim 18, as seen in Figure 1, the airbag arrangement has a nesting efficiency of more than 95%. Regarding claims 19, 20, 22 and 23, the method is disclosed throughout.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soriano et al. (GB 2 390 574 A.) Soriano et al. is discussed above, and discusses warps and wefts for the fabric, but does not per se indicate that the fabric is woven. Weaving is a well known manufacturing process, and Soriano et al. does show what appears to be the schematic representation of a woven fabric. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to understand that the fabric of Soriano et al. is woven, since the discussion is of warps and wefts, and since weaving is a well known manufacturing technique for air bag fabrics.

5. Claims 4-6, 9-11, 16, 17, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soriano et al. (GB 2 390 574 A) in view of Lewis (EP 0 786 382 A1.) Soriano et al. is discussed above and doesn't teach rounded corners and concave sides, or a peripheral side panel. Lewis teaches panels with concave sides and rounded corners (14a) which are used because rounded corners mitigate the stress at sewn junctions, when compared to angled corners (see col. 1, lines 35-39.) Additionally, the more rounded end panels are easier to sew, which reduces production time and additionally distribute the load more evenly (col. 2, line 53-col. 3, line 6.) It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the air bag of Soriano et al. in view of the teaching of Lewis, to include rounded corners and concave sides, in order to ease the fabrication process and distribute the load more evenly, so as to minimize the potential for failure. Regarding claims 4, 9, and 17, Lewis teaches a peripheral side panel, which adds depth to the air bag. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a

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peripheral side panel with the air bag of Soriano et al., in order to increase the depth of the air bag, while still providing an air bag with good nesting efficiency.

Conclusion

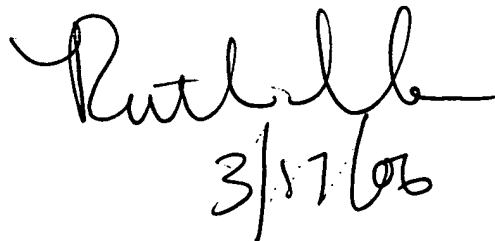
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Banba, Kamagai et al., Chihaya, Fukumori et al. and Okada et al. teach air bags of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth Ilan whose telephone number is 571-272-6673. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571-272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ruth Ilan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3616



3/17/06